

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4237

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, JA

DISTO

SUBJ: PROSPECT FOR EARLY JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF NPT:

JAPANESE DEL'S VIEWS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN NPT

REVIEW CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE DELOFF DISCUSSED WITH US DELOFF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS FACING JAPANESE GOVT IN ATTEMPT TO RATIFY NPT AT NEXT DIET SESSION AS WELL AS POSSIBILITIES OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE AND IN UN ACTIVITIES LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING GENERAL REVIEW OF DISARMAMENT TOPICS, JAPANESE DEPUTY REP TO CCD (YATABE) INITIATED DISCUSSION WITH US DELOFF (NEIDLE) OF STATUS OF GOJ NPT RATIFICATION EFFORTS AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF JAPAN IN NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. REQUESTING SEVERAL TIMES THAT HIS COMMENTS BE STRICTLY PROTECTED, YATABE SAID THAT AMB NISIBORI, JAPANESE CCD REP, HAD MADE VERY STRONG RECOMMENDATION SEVERAL WEEKS
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AGO TO TOKYO THAT GOJ PRESS FOR DIET ACTION ON NPT RATIFICATION

DURING FORTHCOMING DIET SESSION TO BEGIN LATE THIS YEAR. JAPANESE CCD DEL STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF COMPLETING RATIFICATION IN VIEW OF FORTHCOMING NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AT RECENT PARIS MEETING OF JAPANESE CHIEFS OF MISSION, ATTENDED BY NISIBORI, VICE MINISTER TOGO SAID THAT OUTLOOK FOR RATIFICATION AT NEXT SESSION OF DIET WAS NOT GOOD SINCE LDP LEADERS WILL NOT WANT TO PUSH CONTROVERSIAL NPT PROJECT JUST BEFORE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SUMMER. NISIBORI AND YATABE ARE VERY DISCOURAGED BUT WILL PROBABLY MAKE ANOTHER STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO TOKYO DURING COURSE OF CURRENT UNGA SESSION.

3. QUESTION OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE OR PREPARATORY WORK MIGHT, ACCORDING TO YATABE, BE A RATHER "AWKWARD" ONE FOR JAPAN. HE SAID THAT JAPAN REALIZED THAT, UNDER THE NPT, THE REVIEW CONFERENCE WAS CLEARLY A CONFERENCE "OF THE PARTIES". HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SUCH REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED ANYWHERE WITH RESPECT TO A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, AND THEREFORE HE WONDERED WHETHER JAPAN, AS A SIGNATORY WHICH INTENDED TO BECOME A PARTY, MIGHT NOT PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WORK. JAPANESE

DEL NOTICED THAT IN FIRST COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON OCT 23 AMB MARTIN (US) HAD STATED THAT US INTENDED TO CONSULT WITH "NPT PARTIES" ABOUT PREPARING FOR REVIEW CONFERENCE. HE WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US AND JAPANESE DELS TO CONSULT ON THIS MATTER EVEN THOUGH JAPAN WAS NOT A PARTY.

4. US DELOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FRANK COMMENTS FROM JAPANESE COLLEAGUE, NOTING THAT US OFFICIALS WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT GOJ HAD POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS TREATY AND WISHED TO COMPLETE NPT RATIFICATION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE ASSURED YATABE THAT US DEL WOULD WISH TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO JAPANESE DEL IN THIS MATTER. AS TO QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS, DELOFF SAID HE FELT CERTAIN US DEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD MEETING WITH JAPANESE DEL TO CONSULT ABOUT NPT REVIEW MATTERS, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD SAID IN OUR OCT 23 SPEECH THAT WE WERE CONSULTING WITH NPT PARTIES, AND HE INVITED YATABE TO INDICATE PROCEDURE THAT HE THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL: IF JAPANESE DEL WISHED TO SUGGEST MEETING TO CONSULT ABOUT REVIEW CONFERENCE, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST; OR ALTERNATIVELY, IF YATABE THOUGHT PREFERABLE, US DEL COULD SUGGEST SUCH A MEETING. YATABE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO THIS WITH US DELOFF NEXT WEEK.

5. ON QUESTION OF WHETHER NON-PARTIES COULD PARTICIPATE IN

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, US DEL OFF THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE

CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN THIS. THERE WAS BASIC ILLOGICALITY IN HAVING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN PREAPRATION FOR CONFERENCE WHICH THEY MIGHT NOT ATTEND. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT MERELY A TECHNICALITY OR A MATTER OF ABSTRACT LOGIC. WHILE WE WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT JAPAN, AS A SIGNATORY, INTENDED TO RATIFY NPT AND WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE IN ANY PREPARATORY WORK, THERE MIGHT WELL BE OTHER NON-PARTIES, INCLUDING SOME SIGNATORIES, WHO MIGHT WISH TO USE PREPARATORY COMMISSION AS THEATRE FOR DEMONSTRATING WHY EXISTING PROVISIONS OF TREATY DID NOT PERMIT THEM TO BECOME PARTIES. SUCH COUNTRIES MIGHT PUT FORTH PROPOSALS, LIKE TREATY AMENDMENTS, WHICH THEY KNEW TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. DELOFF EXPLAINED THAT WE VIEWED REVIEW CONFERENCE AS OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTIES, WHO HAVE RIGHTS AND DUTIES UNDER TREATY, TO DISCUSS AMONG THEMSELVES HOW WELL TREATY IS WORKING. WE STRONGLY WISHED TO AVOID ANY APPROACH WHICH COULD OPEN UP VERY DIFFICULT ISSUES REGARDING THE TREATY'S STRUCTURE OR BASIC FORMULATION THAT HAD BEEN SETTLED WHEN THE TREATY WAS NEGOTIATED. YATABE SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THE STRENGTH OF THESE ARGUMENTS ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHAT JAPANESE DEL'S REACTION MIGHT BE.

6. US DELOFF FIRNALLY MENTIONED THAT SOME THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO QUESTION OF WHETHER NON-PARTIES MIGHT BE INVITED TO CO-SPONSOR SIMPLE UNGA RESOLUTION UNDER WHICH GA WOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE AND AUTHORIZE SYG TO PROVIDE NECESSARY SERVICES. HE STRESSED THAT WE HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ON THIS MATTER WHICH, OF COURSE, WAS NOT SOLELY UP TO US, BUT ALSO UP TO UK, USSR AND OTHER PARTIES AS WELL. HOWEVER, DELOFF THOUGHT THERE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE SOME MERIT TO THIS IDEA SINCE COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN WHICH SUPPORTED NPT AND WANTED TO SEE IT CONTINUE AS AN

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IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT, MIGHT, AS UNGA MEMBERS, WANT PARTICULARLY TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH ARESOLUTION UNDER WHICH THE UN AUTHORIZES THE SYG TO ASSIST IN A CONSTRUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT. YATABE REACTED THAT THIS POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE A HELPFUL ONE, BUT HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS IT WITHIN THE JAPANESE DEL AND RETURN TO THE MATTER WITH US DELOFF LATER.

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